

Exhibit 6

NC FULL LEGISLATURE 12.16.2024

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3 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

4 FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

5 *****

6 HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER

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10 **County Executive and Legislative Building**

11 **1550 Franklin Avenue**

12 **Mineola, New York**

13 *****

14 Monday, December 16, 2024

15 1:20 p.m.

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17 TAKEN BY: ALEXA LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Resolution
3 12, which designates the official
4 newspaper for the County of Nassau for
5 the year 2025.

6 Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer
7 McKevitt. Seconded by Legislator
8 Ferretti.

9 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Can I be heard on
10 this?

11 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
12 Legislator Davis.

13 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So in terms of the
14 designation of an official County
15 newspaper, the common sense seems to me
16 that the newspaper that we should be
17 using is the one that reaches the most
18 people. The idea of good government is
19 that we are transparent, that what we do
20 is scrutinized, and that we're
21 accountable for what we do. It's my
22 understanding that *Newsday* has been the
23 official newspaper of the Legislature of
24 the County since the inception of the
25 Legislature, and we modified, by

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resolution, we amended the Charter in June of this year. And when I say we, it wasn't a unanimous decision. It was along party lines. And I'm trying to figure out or look at why we're doing this. And one of the best metrics or ways we can look at it is by numbers. And I do have some numbers that I want everyone to know. So it's my understanding through Scarborough and Nielsen data that between the dates of February and October of 2024, *Newsday* has a weekly readership of 440,000 readers in Nassau County. The *New York Post* has a weekly readership rate of almost half, 227,000 weekly readers. So why the change? Why now? Why go to an official newspaper that has less readership?

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I took the liberty of looking at a little bit more detail, *Newsday* and *The Post*, and I looked at something that I thought would be very instructive and something that I think all of us here in the legislature and all those who are

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2 listening should consider: *Newsday* has a
3 slogan, and that slogan is, "Your eye on
4 Long Island". *Newsday* is based in Long
5 Island, in Melville, but certainly we're
6 all familiar with their articles. We're
7 all familiar with their reporters. We're
8 all familiar with their scrutiny for all
9 of us.

10

I looked at *The New York Post* to see
what their slogan was; there isn't one. I
looked to see where *The Post* is
headquartered, and they're on Avenue of
the Americas in New York City. So we have
to ask ourselves, why are we doing this?
Why are we going to a newspaper that is
not hyperlocal? Why are we going to a
newspaper that has less weekly
readership? Why are we going to a
newspaper that is based in New York City
and not in Long Island? Why did we amend
the County Charter in order to facilitate
this? This is what makes all of us look
bad. Because people look at this and
they wonder, why are we doing

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2 it? People have the right. And me as a
3 new legislator, I welcome the scrutiny. I
4 welcome my feet held to the fire and
5 accountability. And I think we all
6 should. And when we're making decisions
7 that are blatantly political and they
8 have an adverse impact on the scrutiny
9 that the public can place on us, it's
10 just bad government and we shouldn't do
11 this.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

13 Thank you, Legislator Davis.

14 I will just set forth a few comments
15 about why this was done and relating to
16 some of the items that you just
17 discussed.

18 First of all, in terms of the
19 circulation, I know the *Newsday* has
20 declined to provide it directly. I'm
21 going to finish. I didn't interrupt you.
22 You're not going to interrupt me.

23 *Newsday* has exhibited consistent bias in
24 terms of its editorial content and
25 certainly they've exhibited an inability

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2 to distinguish between reporting news and
3 and their editorial opinions, which seep
4 into the news. They have historically
5 misquoted, quoted out of context. Going
6 beyond that, in terms of the
7 distribution, New York Post has -- by the
8 way, I should mention it's the oldest
9 continuously published paper in the
10 country founded by Alexander Hamilton --
11 it has a significant readership here in
12 Nassau County. *Newsday* has a paywall,
13 which blocks people from going ahead and
14 reading what's going on over here. As
15 well as even reading the notices that the
16 County publishes, those are all blocked
17 by a paywall. *New York Post* does not have
18 one. *New York Post* has promised to
19 establish a significant presence here.

20 Now, here in Nassau in the New Year,
21 they're going to have two full time
22 reporters here in Nassau County. And at
23 least a page or two of Nassau News,
24 devoted to Nassau news and more when
25 there's something significant going on.

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2 And last but not least, they're also
3 going to devote a significant amount of
4 time and publishing space to our local
5 sports teams. That's something that
6 *Newsday* does. I'll say that. And they're
7 going to be doing that as well. And
8 they've got a much better sports section
9 overall. I'll tell you that. At least
10 that's my opinion. Much more robust.

11

12 The reporting staff has been
13 hollowed out in recent years. They have
14 a couple local people and for the. Most
15 part they rely on wire services for their
16 news. You look at it and that's all you
17 see for national/international. It's all
18 AP and other wire services.

19

20 So all in all, this is a well
21 considered decision. It will not
22 preclude -- by the way, the way things
23 are structured will not preclude the
24 County from publishing items in *Newsday*
25 as well as appropriate. But all in all,
 this is a good decision. It is a good
 decision for the people of the county and

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2 it is not going to detract at all from
3 the ability of the county residents,
4 which is the purpose of these notices.

5 It's not going to detract at all, given
6 the lack of paywall from anyone in the
7 county checking these things on a daily
8 basis as needed.

9 Legislator Bynoe?

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. So the
11 paywall issue I would consider legit as a
12 concern, but we are seeing currently that
13 the subscriber numbers are solid with
14 *Newsday*. Just today when I had the class
15 in here, as I do normally when I have a
16 class in here, I explained to them what
17 legislators do, and I explained that we
18 legislate. It's in our name, right? We
19 create laws, we vet laws, we vote on
20 laws. That we're fiduciaries, that we
21 manage the funds of the County. But I
22 explained to them, the most important
23 role of government of elected leaders is
24 that we connect them to resources, that
25 we are the access to government. And

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2 access alone is not enough; awareness is.

3 And so *Newsday*, as a means for

4 promulgating any of the legal notices and

5 etcetra, that we would be engaging them

6 for, I think it's shortsighted to say

7 that we're not doing that, because we

8 don't feel that they have sided with our

9 policies, our philosophy, and our

10 political leanings. I have felt misquoted

11 by *Newsday*. I have felt that I didn't get

12 a fair shake with *Newsday*. But at the end

13 of the day, my job is in this role is not

14 to worry about how *Newsday* has treated

15 me. It's about how they're serving our

16 public. So to say that we're not going to

17 support *Newsday* because we don't agree

18 with how they have dealt with us. I think

19 it's shortsighted. It's inappropriate,

20 and it has no place in government or in

21 this chamber.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

24 Legislator Ferretti, of course.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,